

CLAIMS

1. Method for compensating reactive power and/or harmonic currents in an alternating-current network by means of a frequency converter (1) feeding an alternating-current load (3), which frequency converter has a mains bridge (10) and at least one load bridge (11), said bridges being provided with controllable semiconductor switches, **characterized** in that, in the method:
- the reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network are measured,
- the load of the mains bridge of the frequency converter is measured, and
- the reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network are compensated by means of the frequency converter when the mains bridge is running at less than full capacity or has no load.
2. Apparatus for compensating reactive power and/or harmonic currents in an alternating-current network, said apparatus comprising:
- a frequency converter (1) feeding an alternating-current load (3) and comprising a mains bridge (10) and at least one load bridge (11), said bridges being provided with controllable semiconductor switches, and a control unit (2) for controlling the mains and load bridges,
- characterized** in that the apparatus further comprises:
- a measuring unit (5) for the measurement of reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network, and
- a measuring unit (4) used to measure the load of the mains bridge of the frequency converter, and that
- the control unit (2) controls the mains bridge to compensate the reactive power and/or harmonic currents in the alternating-current network by means of the frequency converter when the mains bridge is running at less than full capacity or has no load.